

Church of St. Ephrem

929 Bay Ridge Parkway ♦ Brooklyn, New York 11228

www.stephremparish-brooklyn.org



[stephrembklyn](https://twitter.com/stephrembklyn)



[stephremparish-brooklyn](https://www.facebook.com/stephremparish-brooklyn)

Parish Staff

Rev. Robert B. Adamo, KHS, *Pastor*
Rev. Msgr. Peter V. Kain, *Pastor Emeritus*
Rev. Anthony S. Chanan, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Robert Cote, *Youth Minister*
Mrs. Michele James, *Business Manager*
Rev. Msgr. Theophilus Joseph, *Parochial Vicar*
Ms. Eileen Maguire, *Director of Faith Formation*
Mr. Thomas Marchesiello, *Director of Music/Liturgy*
Deacon Kevin McLaughlin, *Permanent Deacon*
Mr. Craig Mercado, *School Principal*
Sr. Ann Martha Ondreicka, O.P., *Director of the Spirituality Center*
Mrs. Lisa Pinsky, *Parish Secretary*
Mr. Thomas J. Sbordone, *Christian Awareness Program/Pastoral Care*
Deacon Anthony Stucchio, *Permanent Deacon*

Sunday, December 31, 2017
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Rectory Office

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1010

Fax 718-921-5232

Spirituality Center

935 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-921-9518

Christian Awareness Program

929 Bay Ridge Parkway

718-833-1143

Faith Formation Office

Office in School Room 307

718-745-7486

stephremreligious@gmail.com

St. Ephrem School

924 74th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11228 ♦ 718-833-1440 ♦ Fax 718-745-5301 ♦ www.stephremschool.org

Schedule of Masses

Saturday Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12 Noon, & 5:00 PM

Weekdays 7:00 AM & 8:45 AM

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday:

9:00 AM—12 Noon

1:00 PM—8:00 PM

Saturday

9:00 AM—5:00 PM

Sunday

No Office Hours

Parish Registration

All are welcomed and invited to register at the Parish Office and participate in our parish.

Devotions

Miraculous Medal Novena, Mondays following the 8:45 AM Mass
Recitation of the Rosary at 8:15 AM before weekly morning Mass.

Divine Mercy Chaplet every Friday at 3:00 PM

First Friday Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following
the 8:45 AM Mass and Benediction at 12:30 PM.

Baptism

Parents should call the rectory to make an appointment.
Please note that there are no baptisms during the season of Lent.

Marriage

The Sacrament of Marriage requires a time of serious spiritual preparation. Couples should make arrangements for their marriage at least six months before the date of the wedding by making an appointment with a priest or deacon. Please log on to www.pre-cana.org for complete information about marriage preparation in the Diocese.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 3:30—4:30 PM.

By appointment for all other times.

Anointing of the Sick/Communion

To make arrangements for communion to be brought to any parishioner who is seriously ill or confined to the house, or if they wish to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. To see a particular Staff Member, please call for an appointment.

Our Mission Statement

We, the parish family of St. Ephrem, baptized into the life of Jesus Christ and nourished by the Word and the Eucharist, strive to be a welcoming and responsive Roman Catholic faith community. Together we are committed to put our faith into action by:

Responding to the spiritual and physical needs of the community through service and charity.

Reaching out to those who are searching for a faith community, including the young and those seeking to re-ignite their relationship with God. Reaching out to all without distinction. Passing on our faith and traditions through teaching by word and example. Connecting to where people are on their faith journey. Actively participating in the worship, sacrament and devotional life of the church.



**The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary, and Joseph**

December 31, 2017

**“The child grew and
became strong,
filled with wisdom.”**

In today’s gospel, the faithful Joseph and Mary bring their son to the temple for his presentation to the Lord, a ritual required by the law. The book of Exodus taught that a family’s firstborn son “belonged” to the Lord who saved them when the firstborn sons of the Egyptians were destroyed at the first Passover. The prophet Simeon and the prophetess Anna are idealized portraits of the faithful “remnant” of Israel awaiting the Messiah’s coming. Simeon’s canticle praises God for the universal salvation that will be realized in Jesus. In Simeon’s warning prophecy, the shadow of the cross to come falls upon the Holy Family.

Anna, as an elderly widow, is considered among the most vulnerable and poor of society. Her encounter with the child characterizes the theme woven throughout Luke’s gospel: the exaltation of society’s poorest and most humble by God.

Every family can identify with the stories of Jesus’ birth and childhood. Life for the family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus is harsh: they are forced from their home; they are innocent victims of the political and social tensions of their time; they endure the suspicions of their own people when Mary’s pregnancy is discovered; their child is born under the most difficult and terrifying of circumstances; they experience the agonizing anxiety of searching for their missing child. And yet, through it all, their love and faithfulness to one another do not waver. We experience such love within our own families and households as we confront the many tensions and crises that threaten the stability, peace, and unity that are the joys of being a family.

To all, the parish family, it is in the family that we first experience unconditional love. As we begin a New Year, may it be filled with peace and health, knowing God’s unconditional love and mercy is always freely given to us!

Happy New Year!

In the Good Shepherd,

Fr. Robert



December 3, 2017	316 Envelopes	\$10,328.00
Christmas Flowers	165 Envelopes	\$2,043.00
We Share (Online Giving)	40 Families	\$220.00

Mass Attendance 735

Thank you for your generosity to St. Ephrem Parish!



Generations of Faith continues across the Diocese!

Generations of Faith Campaign Update as of November 16th at St. Ephrem R.C. Church	
Campaign Goal	\$980,000
Total Pledged	\$1,068,619.00
Total Payments to Date by Parishioners	\$742,559.44
Total # Donors	195
Total Funds To Be Returned to Parish to Date	\$336,719.00

On behalf of the parish, and all of the volunteers who helped with *Generations of Faith* thank you for your prayers and support of this historic effort!

While we have completed our campaign, many parishioners are choosing to make their pledge payments to **Generations of Faith** automatically through online giving!

Enroll in online giving today!

FOLLOW THESE EASY STEPS:

1. VISIT: WWW.CFBQ.ORG/PLEDGE
2. ENTER BANKING OR CREDIT CARD INFORMATION
3. CONFIRM YOUR PAYMENT METHOD, REFERENCE AND CONTACT INFORMATION
4. WELCOME! YOU ARE NOW ENROLLED FOR EASY, CONVENIENT AND FREE ONLINE PAYMENTS!

WHAT IF I NEED HELP SETTING UP AN ONLINE ACCOUNT SO THAT I CAN PAY MY PLEDGE?

To provide this service, we have partnered with Faith Direct, a leading online provider for the Church. Should you need help enrolling or if you do not have an email address, please contact them at [\(866\) 507-8757](tel:8665078757).

If you have further questions, call Catholic Foundation at (718) 965-7375, ext. 2210 and they will assist you further.



**Mass Intentions
for the week**

Saturday, December 30th

8:45 AM Virginia & Vincent Ingenito
5:00 PM Francesco Grasso
Peter Carlin

Sunday, December 31st

8:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
10:00 AM Evelyn & Frank Giaquinto
12 Noon Phil Arnao
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem

Monday, January 1st

No 7:00 AM Mass

8:45 AM Pasquale Marsillo

Tuesday, January 2nd

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Domenick Mazzone

Wednesday, January 3rd

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 AM Anna Visconti

Thursday, January 4th

7:00 AM For the People of St. Ephrem
8:45 PM Mary C. O'Hara

Friday, January 5th

7:00 AM For the Intentions of Anna Scullion
8:45 AM Theresa Offitto

Saturday, January 6th

8:45 AM Purgatorial Society Mass
5:00 PM Antonio Cartolano
John Tramutola

Sunday, January 7th

8:00 AM Herminio Colon
10:00 AM Margaret DeFilippo
12 Noon Rose Morey
5:00 PM For the People of St. Ephrem



The Bread & Wine

In Loving Memory of

Mary C. O'Hara

*Requested by: Kathy & Mike Thompson
And Family*



Altar Candles & Sanctuary Lamp

In Loving Memory of

Mary C. O'Hara

*Requested by: Kathy & Mike Thompson
And Family*



Our Parish Goal: \$104,459.00

*All monies collected over goal
is returned to St. Ephrem Parish*

260 Donors

Amount Pledged: \$106,898.00

Paid to Date: \$105,502.00

Reached 102.33% of Goal



**Thank you for your
continued generosity
and helping us reach
our parish goal!**

New Year Mass Schedule

**Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God
Monday, January 1, 2018 8:45 AM**



*The Lord Bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face shine on you and
be gracious to you: the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace."*

Numbers 6:24-26

Happy New Year On behalf of the Priests, Deacon, Religious and Staff of St. Ephrem 's.

YOUTH MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE World Youth Day

If you missed the World Youth Day Information Meeting and are interested in joining the St. Ephrem group to Panama, please email us or call the rectory by January 17th.

Join us for one night or for every event.
For more information please email:
stephremyouthministry@gmail.com

 @stephremyouth

St. Ephrem Baseball/Softball Awards Ceremony

Sunday, January 7th, 2018
Following the 10:00 AM Mass
Msgr. Peter V. Kain Hall

*All players are invited with immediate family
at no cost. Coffee, juice and donuts will be served.*

Baseball Registration

Sunday, January 7th, 2018 at the Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, January 24th, 2018 7:00PM-9:00PM

Sunday, January 28th, 2018 11:30PM-2:15PM

Registration is open
to boys and girls
ages 5-14.

For more
information you can
contact
Sylvester Sichenze at
917-692-1367



SPIRITUALITY CENTER



Bereavement Support Group

A new Bereavement Support Group will begin Monday, January 8th at 7:00 PM in the Spirituality Center. Sessions are a 6 week cycle. If you have experienced the lose of a loved one and would like the compassionate listening, honest sharing and consoling prayer, please join us

Exploring the Sunday Readings
Thursday, January 4th at 10: 00 AM

Bereavement Support Group

St. Patrick Parish
Sister Jeanne Elaine at 718-238-2600x178
Our Lady of Angels Parish
Judy Chiarchiaro at 718-748-1164
St. Ephrem Parish
Sister Ann Martha at 718-921-9518

Spiritual Direction

Sister Ann Martha (718) 921-9518



All are welcome!!!!

SCHOOL NEWS

“Be An Angel” to a St. Ephrem Student

The “Be An Angel Program” is one of the ways Futures In Education, a Diocesan organization, provides a student with need-based scholarship the chance for a St. Ephrem parishioner to change the life of a child through the gift of a Catholic education. There are different ways one can help: partial tuition assistance starting at \$1,500.00 per year. (St. Ephrem School Annual Tuition is \$4,675 per student.)

Please prayerfully consider assisting a child from St. Ephrem School.

For more information
please call the school
office at (718) 833-1440



SCHOOL NEWS –ACADEMY PROCESS



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ~ CATHOLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN
310 PROSPECT PARK WEST BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215 718-965-7300
FAX: 718-965-7353

Preserving the Vision Newsletter #4 of 5

“Our lives are a response to His call and you will happy and will build your lives well if you know how to answer that call. Feel the Lord’s presence in your lives. In prayer, in dialogue with Him, in reading the Bible you will discover that He is truly close to you. And you should also learn to ready God’s signs in your lives. He is always speaking to us – it is up to us to listen to Him”. Pope Francis

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The establishment of new Catholic academies, each enjoying a two-tier governance structure, has been introduced throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn as an essential goal of *Preserving the Vision*. This new governance model is critical to assure the long-term viability and vitality of Catholic education for many years to come.

The same question has been repeatedly asked: why are we introducing a new governance model for our schools? The answer reflects a fundamental aspect of our Catholic faith. More specifically, since the Second Vatican Council, the Roman Catholic Church has recognized that lay men and women – possessing unique talents, abilities and skills – are essential to assist the Catholic Church in maintaining its vital ministries and plan for its future. The participation of the laity in the Catholic Church’s educational mission is critically important, as we address the challenges faced within our Diocese of Brooklyn.

It is to address the many challenges that Catholic education faces, and recognizing that Catholic education is a shared responsibility for our entire faith community, that the Diocese of Brooklyn began the strategic planning process entitled *Preserving the Vision* and examined a number of different school governance models from around the country. The result of this research was the identification of a new, two-tier governance model that will be introduced by the establishment of new Catholic elementary academies throughout the Diocese of Brooklyn by the 2018-2019 academic year.

Each new Catholic academy – which is defined as a newly incorporated private Catholic elementary school – will be chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York, and enjoy a two-tier governance model made up of Members and Directors. These two groups share in the governance of the academy in different ways.

Members of the academies are generally the pastors of an area and the sponsors of the academy. Among their responsibilities will be to appoint the Directors of the academy and ensure the academy’s overall Catholic identity. There is one group of Members composed of no less than three but no more than eight individuals appointed by the Bishop of the Diocese. In addition to those Members appointed by the Diocesan Bishop, one of whom is the Moderator of the Curia, there shall be *ex-officio* members, including the Superintendent, Senior Deputy Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent for Governance, Office of the Superintendent ~ Catholic School Support Services and the Pastors/Administrators of the parishes aligned to the academy.

At a Pastors’ Meeting on October 1, 2014, Most Reverend James Massa, Moderator of the Curia presented to the pastors the attached document which further identifies their role as pastoral partners with the academy.

In addition to the Members, each academy also has a Board of Directors. The Directors of the academies develop the policies that protect and enhance the academy’s mission and work to ensure its future through strategic planning and outreach. Therefore, the Directors of an academy are at all times to exercise their authority and responsibilities solely for the benefit of the academy. The Board of Directors is composed of at least seven persons approved by the Members, each possessing a competency in one or more of the following areas: finance, education, development, marketing or facilities.

Attached please find a chart which clearly outlines the two-tier governance model for the academies.

Essential to the success of the new academies will be the ongoing support and professional development of the Directors of the academies. This is accomplished through a partnership with St. John’s University, St. Vincent de Paul Program, and the Office of the Superintendent.

Through ongoing collaboration, the identification of new resources and ongoing strategic planning on the part of their respective Directors, our academies have shown real growth and remain committed to achieve unqualified, academic excellence. Each Board of Directors continues to create new avenues for marketing, recruitment and retention of students, development, new sources of funding and new partnerships to enhance the academic opportunities available to their children.

We are confident that these same benefits will be afforded to your children with the creation of a new Catholic academy of academic excellence and unwavering commitment to the values of the Gospel.

Please find *Preserving the Vision* on the Diocesan Website for Catholic Education, <http://dioceseofbrooklyn.org/schools/faq-catholic-academies/>.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chadzutko, Ed.D.
Superintendent

PARISH NEWS

Pope Francis's Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
in you we contemplate
the splendor of true love,
to you we turn with trust.



Holy Family of Nazareth,
grant that our families too
may be places of
communion and prayer,
authentic schools of the
Gospel, and small domestic
Churches.

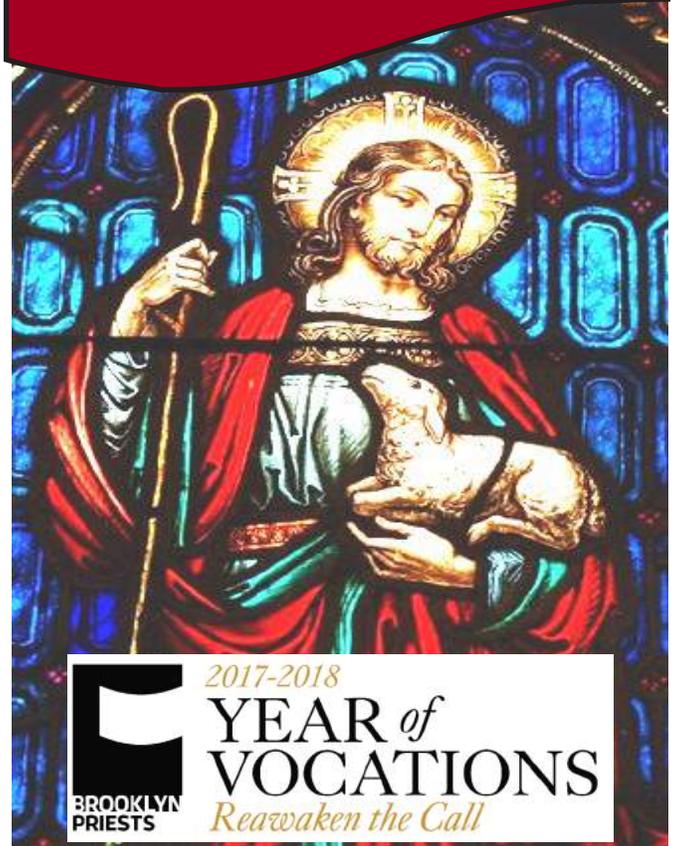
Holy Family of Nazareth,
may families never again
experience violence, rejection, and division:
may all who have been hurt or scandalized
find ready comfort and healing.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
graciously hear our prayer.
Amen.

YEAR OF VOCATIONS

YEAR OF VOCATIONS DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN 2017-2018

*"It was not you who chose me, but I who
chose you and appointed you to go and bear
fruit that will remain, so that whatever you
ask the Father in my name he may give you."
John 15:16*



Thank You!

Your Generosity and support
throughout the year helps us
to continue our pastoral
ministry.

In addition, thank you for
your many Christmas
Wishes, Sweets,
Spirits & Gifts



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction



Friday, January 5th
immediately following
the 8:45 AM Mass
(If there is a funeral Mass, adoration
will follow after.)

Benediction at 12:30 P.M.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord of the Harvest, we petition you as
you have instructed us to ask for more
laborers to serve in the vineyard of your
Church. You have told us that the
harvest is rich and laborers are few and
we experience this great need in the face
of the challenge of the New Evangelization.

We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire young men and
women to seriously consider vocations to the
priesthood and religious life. Help all of us to be
effective instruments to encourage and support those
whom you are calling to serve and lead the Church of
Brooklyn and Queens in the future.

Lord, you told the Apostles to put out into the deep.
We ask for the grace and courage to respond to your
call as we pray and work for an increase in vocations
to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

We ask this in the Name of Jesus Christ, the Great
High Priest, Amen.

Nicholas DiMarzio

